

Note

Song of Solomon – Part 1 of 1

Song of Solomon	Part 1: (Son 1-3:5)	The Courtship <i>Bride muses about her beloved</i>
Written by Solomon	Part 2: (Son 3:6-5:1)	The wedding <i>Groom speaks tenderly to his bride</i>
About 1000 BC	Part 3: (Son 5:2-8:14)	The maturing marriage <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Wife longs for and describes her loving husband</i>• <i>Husband speaks of his wife in intimate terms</i>• <i>Both partners declare a permanent seal on their love</i>

Summary

Song of Solomon - Part 1 of 13

Solomon's Song of Songs, the highest/greatest love song. God is not mentioned once (like Esther), but it is regarded as highly sacred, encapsulating the correct Biblical view that physical and spiritual are one. While being a poetic celebration of physical love, incorporating all five senses, it also symbolises God's burning passion for Israel and Christ's intimate love for his Bride/Church.

Transcript

Song of Solomon – Part 1 of 1

Today we look at the book of Song of Solomon.

Many Christians wonder why this book is even in the Bible. There's no mention of God at all. The only other book in the Bible that does not mention God is Esther. Many Christians also wonder, what is this book about? There's nothing obviously spiritual in their mind about this book. It's obviously about human sexuality. It describes the five senses of our body. All the five senses. The touch, the sight, the hearing, the smell, the taste, all the five senses. And you really begin to wonder, what is this book about? And yet, the book begins with the title, the Song of Songs of Solomon. The word Song of Songs, is the Hebrew way of saying, It's the greatest song of all, just like King of kings, Lord of lords. In Hebrew they don't have an adjective before the noun. They don't say This is the greatest song, they just say Song of Songs. You don't say he's the greatest King. You just say, King of kings. So this is the Song of Songs, the greatest song ever written. Why? It's a love song.

We say a love song is the greatest song ever written. It sounds weird to me. My Christianity is so intellectual. What are you talking about? I go to Bible study, I go to Sunday school, I diligently study. What is this love song doing in the midst of all this beautiful book that we are learning about? Now the Hebrews considered this song very sacred. Today if you go to most synagogues, this Song of Songs is read on the Sabbath of the passover-that's a big day. It is read because the Hebrews saw this song as an analogy, a type of God's intimate love with Israel and of Israel's response to that intimate love. So I hope you understand that we are not treading a fringe book. It's right in the middle of the Bible-love is the heart of all things.

What is the greatest commandment? Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, mind and strength. Now, for the Hebrews, spiritual and physical are one and the same. God made the physical, God made the spiritual. But our mind has been so influenced by Greek philosophy, not Biblical philosophy, not theology, but Greek thinking that puts the spiritual or

intellectual above the physical. The Greeks love philosophy. The Philosophers were looked up to. So today in our so called Christianity, it's actually, I call it Greek ology, right? Because it's so believed that the scholar is above the labourer. That's our thinking. Studying is better than working. If you go to a church, the one you look up to is the scholar who can debate and debate at every Bible study, not the one who goes out and serves the poor, takes care of the widows. That's just mundane work, that's Christianity of today where it's so Greek. That's why even when I tell people, please listen to the Bible, it's like you're so anti-scholarly. Reading, meditating, dissecting, analyzing, this is what Christianity is all about. No, as far as God is concerned, He made the physical world as much as He made the intellectual or spiritual world. They are one and the same to God. So I hope we get this very clear that this book is a precious book in the Bible, though it speaks of physical love. And you say, Why? Because if physical love is invented by God. Let me put it bluntly, sex is invented by God in the Garden of Eden, it was not invented by Satan, as many of us as Christians, Bible-believing Christians, actually believe sex is like something, you just have to have because, you know, it's kind of natural, but not a very good thing to have. You need to produce babies. You know, after all, we are married. And so oftentimes sex is looked upon as something like one of those things you tolerate, not exalt. That's why there's so much terrible immorality in the world, even among Christians.

Let me repeat that. This wrong idea that are men, and this Christian man and his Christian wife when they have sex. It's like Gotta be a bit careful, there's not a very good thing to do but I need it, you need it but you know, that's just okay. And so they never have fulfillment. They never have a celebration of love in sex, which is what it should be between two people in love. This is a celebration given by God, of course in the sanctity and sacredness of marriage, to enjoy this thing, but they don't enjoy it in marriage. So what do these Christian men finally end up doing? They are tempted to find it outside of marriage where the other partner doesn't worry about this not being very good. I hope you follow me in this. Satan's tactic (he's a great deceiver, he's brilliant) knows how to make Christians fall, he doesn't do it by just tempting, he does it by perverting this beautiful idea of sex beautifully invented by God in the beautiful garden of Eden, and make it look like something dirty. So until we get this straight, even this book looks dirty to us. So I hope that this book will help at least in this one area.

Now who wrote the song?

Solomon, Song of Songs of Solomon.

He was a very musical guy. He was a very emotional guy. And he wrote this as a love song. Now the typical love song has a lot of things that doesn't make sense to people not in love. Honestly, if you're not in love with God, and you read this, it's like, what is all this funny description, eyes like doves, teeth like sheep. You know, when you listen to a love song, even a secular love song.....you know, one of the favorite love songs that we Singaporeans like to sing is The moon represents my love. What!! For a guy who's never fallen in love, a moon, that little yellow ball up there represents your love. What's up with you, man? But when you are in love, it makes lots of sense. Not logical sense, emotional sense. So when you read this book, read it as a love song, not to be dissected. The moon represents my love. You could think about it for a week and never figure it out intellectually. You could not even with a brilliant mind figure out but you could feel with a simple heart, understand that. So basically, it's a love song. And as I said, the Hebrews saw this song as a simple, wonderful analogy. At Passover, they sing it. That Christ when God did this Passover for Israel, He loved them intimately-God loves Israel. You see, an analogy is something, it's a fact that you can easily understand that explains another fact. Let me give you an example. To say love God is very hard, respect God is very hard. I mean, He's far away, where is he? But if you say you should respect God like you respect your father, your daddy, then a kid can understand. Of course I can understand that I'm supposed to respect my daddy. He protects me, he feeds me, he guides me. Of course, I should respect him. Then that little child begins to understand. Ah! I should respect God the same way I respect my dad because he loves me, he protects me, he provides for me. So that's an analogy, something simple that we can understand. To help us understand something harder to understand. So when the Hebrews sang this song of love between a husband and a wife, Hebrews don't have this problem about the intellectual, like us having a Greek brain perverted by the Greek mind. They saw this, wow the way God loves me, the way I love my wife. And the way God wants me to love Him is the way I want my wife to love me, he understands it so simply. So that's the analogy of this song. Though when Solomon wrote it, he wrote it just as a plain old love song, but the Hebrews took it and made it a precious song for them to sing at the Sabbath of the Passover.

Now, what's this story about? It's about two people, not three, sometimes it seems like there are three people, that it seems like there's a king and there's a shepherd-like guy and there's a lady, a Shulamite lady. Actually

the king and the shepherd are one. Just as David was a shepherd, Moses was a shepherd. It was said that Solomon loved to go out into the fields. He loved to study things. He would go out into his country estates to escape from the busyness of the palace in Jerusalem. He'll go to the country estate and be a simple guy looking at the plants and the sheep and that's how he studied agriculture and how he studied about animals and about nature. That's why he was like a real expert on these things.

So the story is about him going to his country estate. And when he's in a country estate, of course he doesn't wear his robes and his crown and everything, he just looks like a shepherd. And in his country estate or by the side of it was a simple farm girl described as dark, black. She's a farm girl, an outdoor girl. And they meet and they fall in love. Solomon and this farm girl. But this farm girl, this simple girl has no idea who he is and he never says it. He just leaves it at that. And so they meet and they meet as he goes to his estate and they fall in love. And one day he promises to marry her. But he said I have to go to the city and settle things first, so he leaves and then she waits for him. He probably got stuck in kingly affairs and didn't come back for months and so a lot of the love story is about her waiting, her dreaming she went to Jerusalem to look for him in the streets, you can read it or listen to it. About her dreaming one night that he was knocking at the door but by the time she got up, he was gone. You know, that's what people experience when they want something and they don't get it yet, they fear losing it. So there was all this emotional 'I want to be with him, but where is he, is he coming back?' That seeking and desiring him. And finally, one day he returns in a chariot. He brings her to Jerusalem, he marries her and the whole poetry is about the banquet they have and all the love songs between each other. That's what it is. It's a collection of love poems that if you read it intellectually you'll go mad. You'll go crazy. And that's why most intellectuals struggle with this book. You read all the commentators, not all, most of the commentators, you go nuts reading it. They're trying to analyze and make an allegory. And, you know, it's like the pomegranate speaks of blood. What are you talking about? It's just love.

So, what is the conclusion of this whole book? What's the purpose of this whole book? It's an analogy, as I said, the Hebrew saw it clearly-God's intimate love to Israel. And God expecting Israel to love him back intimately. It's an analogy of Christ's love to the church. You know, when I conduct a wedding, I often use, almost always use Ephesians 5. And the last two

verses 31 to 32, which says, for this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and they two shall be one flesh. So it sounds like, this is like about two people coming together to be one flesh. That's very sexual. And then it goes on in Ephesians 5:32, this is a great mystery. It's an analogy. But I speak concerning Christ and the church. So marriage is an analogy. Intimate love of husband and wife is an analogy. This is stated in Ephesians 5:32. It's not me imagining this song is an analogy. This love song between Solomon and his bride, and the next couple I'm marrying, the man and his bride is an analogy of Christ and the Church.

Of course for Solomon it was God and Israel, not the church; not Jesus and the church. He had no idea who Jesus was but the church, but he knew God and Israel. So it's an analogy. That's number one. Right? So what does God want us to do at the end of this song? What's the conclusion of this song? God wants us to fall in love with him. Personally, intimately, fall in love with him. Now, this sounds very bizarre to 90% of Christians. You know, when even when they sing a hymn, a hymn, when we sing to God, it's a love song. Basically. Just a love song. But for many Christians, a hymn must have strong doctrine. They will sing the song looking at the words rather than singing a love song. That's why singing in church is a very, sometimes very boring and painful experience. There's almost no emotion in the singing. People get freaked out when you're emotional in your singing. Imagine like singing a love song with no emotion. Just focus on the lyrics and the words. But that's Christianity today. That's why the so-called worship needs to be hyped up because people are feeling Let's get this over with, I want to hear the sermon, please bring me the sermon. In most churches, half the church is not there for the singing. Two thirds the church is not there. By the time the sermon comes, everybody is there because Let's get to the real business, pastor. Let's hear the Word of God rightly divided on the pulpit. To sing a love song to God-waste time.

So this is Christianity today and this book is critical. Because what does God say? What does he want from us? When Peter had denied Christ three times, what did Jesus ask him? Are you going to stop denying me after this? Are you going to get your doctrines right? Are you going to be faithful? What did Jesus say to Peter? Lovest thou me? Do you love me? Three times he asks. What's the greatest commandment? Love God with all your heart first and foremost. But that's not Christianity, it's doctrinal, it's

diligence, it's duty. Even reading the Bible has become like that. That's why I did this series. I feel so sad.

When people look at the Bible, you know, with intellectual eyes, the heart is left on the shelf. And you know, the heart is only used for work, they love their work. They fall in love with things in the world, their hobbies, their work, their travel, they will talk gushingly how wonderful their work is, how wonderful their travel, how wonderful the food and when they talk about God, okay, let's do our Bible study now. That's why this book is so critical. That's why it's after the book of Ecclesiastes. We wonder why it's put there. Some people say, Oh, because they're all poetry books. Come on, Ecclesiastes talks about a man who fell in love with the things under the sun, not the things above the sun. He feels that wow, he can love this project and love this possession and love this power. What should we love? Not the things under the sun, but the one who made the sun. So I hope this helps us to understand this core purpose of this book. Of course, secondly it teaches us that sex is invented by God to enjoy in the sanctity and sacredness of marriage. And as long as it is in marriage, it is a celebration of God's goodness to us. You take it out of marriage, you pervert what is beautiful. And that's what the devil wants - to not enjoy in marriage and enjoy it outside.

So what do we learn about God in this whole book? I always say the focus must be about God. It's not about how I respond, my marriage, how I sing a song, those are important, but what did we learn about God. God is emotional, God cares about us in a very personal way, God feels, God expresses his love, God is not a cold, logical person sitting on a throne and just giving commandments and decrees to us. He feels, He expresses. That's why he put this Song of Songs in the center of his book, because it is about the heart of men and the center of our relationship with God. Don't be ashamed to tell the world. It's not just personal. But when love is personal, and it's so intense, you can't help but share it out. When a man's in love, you can see his face, you can see his talk, you can see everything and you can look at him and say you're in love. I've done it a lot of times in church, Buddy, you're in love, there's something. And they'll say, Pastor, how do you know? You can see, something about the eyes, the smile, the excitement, you know? Do you see that in the people going to church? I'm afraid I don't. I don't. Going to Care group? No, I don't. Do they go there to love God, to love one another? No, I don't see that. You can call it a Care Group, you can call it whatever you care to call it, but it is a Bible study.

And when you open your Bible, do you see a God of love? No, you see a whole bunch of laws, doctrines and duties, nothing wrong with it. But if it doesn't have love, you are nothing, nothing! If you do all of it out of duty, you are nothing without love. May God bless this book to you. May you enjoy the poetry. Just see it as a love song. The moon represents my heart. That's it. Enjoy the Song. Listen to it. You don't take lyrics of a love song and analyze too much. Listen to the song-enjoy. God bless you. This book will hopefully make you love God with all your heart and express it in church every time you sing, express it to others every time you talk about God, how much you love God.

God bless you!